

Police-doctor nexus on postmortem

1618. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that police doctor nexus for faking postmortem has been exposed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what positive steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Maintenance of Law & order being a State subject, no such information is maintained Centrally. In so far as three Central Government hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hosiptal, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & its associated hospitals are concerned, no police-doctor nexus has been reported for faking postmortem.

Supply of drugs for RCH Programme

1619. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi based Nestor Pharmaceutical and Mumbai based Pure Pharma which secured majority of pharmaceutical contracts under Reproductive and Child Health Project and Child Survival and Safe Motherhood project of World Bank, failed to deliver quantities of drugs and even diluted the drugs they supplied, as per investigation of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken against those firms which have cheated the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The World Bank has shared with us a report in 2005, regarding their review of Bank funded RCH-I project (project period 1999 to 2005) which was over by 2005.

The Report of the World Bank contained some allegations of general nature like the number of bids per contract going down over the years; a large percentage of contracts being awarded to two pharmaceuticals firms viz. M/s Nestor Pharmaceuticals and M/s Pure Pharmaceuticals as well as a few specific ones like collusion of some companies in the tender process and companies taking part in the tender after obtaining false experience certificates from other companies including some PSUs.

This Department immediately got the allegations scrutinized and based on this scrutiny the following actions were taken:

(a) Suspended business with two firms viz. M/s Nestor Pharmaceuticals and M/s. Pure Pharma in July, 2005 on charges of reported collusion. Later on, the World Bank also invoked sanctions against these companies in July, 2007;

(b) On reference from Government Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case against M/s Pure Pharma and M/s Nestor Pharmaceuticals and the same is at an advanced stage of investigation.

Unsuccessful AIDS vaccine

1620. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an AIDS vaccine trial was conducted at the National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune for a full year since February 7, 2005, although it was known within a fortnight that it had failed in Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for continuing the trial despite the fact that it had failed in other countries; and

(d) what action has been taken against the officials responsible for squandering valuable services of the scientists and resources of the institute for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Phase I vaccine trial was initiated at National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune on 7th February, 2005. 30 volunteers participated in this trial and all the trial participants were followed up for one year.

(c) and (d) The Phase I vaccine trial was initiated at NARI, Pune on 7th February, 2005. After the Phase I AAV-2 trial was initiated in India, the results from the Phase I trials in Belgium and Germany were received. The data from Belgium and Germany showed that vaccine was safe and well tolerated. However, no significant immune response was reported. These results were reviewed by the national scientific and ethics committees and it was decided that although the results from Belgium and Germany showed that the vaccine is only weakly immunogenic, different results could be expected from Indian populations due to ethnic differences of the Indian and European populations. Hence the trial in Pune was allowed to continue.

Substandard drugs in Delhi

1621. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that fake drugs worth Rs. 300 crores are being manufactured and sold in the N.C.T. of Delhi as per survey of the Associated Chamber of Commerce;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the factual position in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to combat this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) One the basis of a news report published in Hindustan Times dated 14.02.2008 regarding a recent survey by the Associated Chamber of Commerce (ASSOCHAM) highlighting rise of sale of spurious drugs, the Government wrote to them to authenticate the news and from their reply it appears that the